

BARRATT O'HARA

BARRATT O'HARA, Democrat; born at St. Joseph, Mich., April 28, 1882; is the last of 93 veterans of the Spanish-American war who have served in the House of Representatives and in 1955 was awarded the Order of Military Merit with distinction in white by the Republic of Cuba for services rendered the people of Cuba during their war for independence; son of the late Circuit Judge Thomas O'Hara and Mary (Barratt) O'Hara; educated at University of Missouri, Northwestern University, Chicago-Kent College of Law, LL. B.; married Florence M. Hoffman; children -- Barratt, Jr., Lorence Hoffman, Howard Mears, Florence Frances Louise (deceased); as boy, accompanied General Ludlow and Admiral Walker on expedition through Nicaragua marking route for interoceanic canal, Smithsonian Institute party exploring jungles of Central America for fungus growth, and expedition of General Alexander in determination of boundary dispute between Nicaragua and Costa Rica; at 15, when sophomore in high school enlisted in 33d Michigan Volunteer Infantry and landed in Cuba 3 days after "Teddy" Roosevelt and Rough Riders, participated in siege of Santiago de Cuba; at 20, was sporting editor of St. Louis (Mo.) Chronicle (Scripps-McRae) and at 21 was sporting editor of Hearst's Chicago American; later was Sunday editor of the Chicago Examiner and editor and publisher of the Chicago Magazine; at 30 was elected Lieutenant Governor of Illinois, the youngest in the

State's history; chairman of Illinois Senate Vice and Wage Commission, which was responsible for the passage of the first State minimum-wage laws; while Acting Governor (in absence from State of Governor Dunne) served as member of Secretary Redfield's Federal board of inquiry into the SS. EASTLAND tragedy (capsizing July 23, 1915, in Chicago River, occasioning loss of 812 lives) and proposed legislation which, enacted by the Congress, has prevented similar catastrophies since that time; in 1917 became president of company with studios in Hollywood, an organization previously headed by David Wark Griffith, resigning on declaration of war with Germany to reenter military service; served in World War I with 319th Infantry, 80th Division, and later 12th Regular Army Division; at termination of hostilities resumed law practice in Chicago; defense counsel in many homicide trials with a record of never having a death sentence imposed; from 1932 to 1937 spoke nightly over WCFL radio station (American Federation of Labor) and was instrumental in effecting reforms in bankruptcy proceedings to bring relief to impoverished holders of real-estate bonds; from 1939 to 1948, and again in 1951 and 1952, was an attorney for the city of Chicago in traction reorganization and subway construction; Past Judge Advocate General, Veterans of Foreign Wars; one of the organizers of the American Legion in Illinois; member Chicago Press Veterans Association, Phi Gamma Delta, Phi Delta Phi, American Veterans Committee, United Spanish War Veterans, and 80th Division Veterans Association; author of From Figg to Johnson, Legislative Compendium,

**Defaulted Real Estate Bonds, and (with Marie Crowe) Who Made the
Constitution?; elected to the Eighty-first and Eighty-third Congresses;
reelected to the Eighty-fourth, Eighty-fifth and Eighty-sixth Congresses.**